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A Guide to the . . .



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History of Women's Council

The Missouri Women's Council was established in 1985 by the State's 83rd General Assembly to identify and address issues affecting the economic and employment status of Missouri women. The Women's Council strives to advance opportunity for women in Missouri economically, and in civic and family issues.

As part of Workforce Development in the Department of Economic Development, the Council works closely with other agencies and community-based organizations to promote the well being of women in Missouri. The bipartisan Council is comprised of 15 members: 11 appointed by the Governor, 2 Missouri State Senators, and 2 Missouri State Representatives.

An Executive Director and staff serve the Missouri Women's Council and the women of Missouri.

Friends of the Missouri Women's Council Foundation

The Friends of the Missouri Women's Council Foundation works to provide funds for important programs that enhance career, family, and civic life for the women of Missouri. A Board of Directors governs the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Individuals and organizations may contribute to the Foundation. Gifts go directly to the programs of the Missouri Women's Council.

Resource and Referral Center

The goal of the Resource and Referral Center is to connect Missouri's women and families with information, agencies, community-based organizations and services across the state of Missouri. The Center offers numerous types of information to the citizens of Missouri:

- Referrals to state agencies, community organizations, educational institutions;
- Studies on issues impacting women and families, including the *Missouri Self-Sufficiency Standard Study*, a county by county breakdown of necessary wages to sustain families;
- Legislative information;
- Business Resource Directory;
- Fact sheets and statistics on issues affecting Missouri's women and families;
- Quarterly newsletter;
- Job and training opportunities.

Programs

The Missouri Women's Council reviews programs that assist women in gaining the skills they need to become productive members of society and the workplace. Each year the Council chooses specific programs to fund and sometimes sponsors them with other organizations. Current programs include:

- A+ Computer Repair Certification Program – Chillicothe Correctional Center for Women
- Distance Learning Program – Central Ozarks Private Industry Council
- Workforce Preparation – Jefferson College, Hillsboro and Mineral Area College, Park Hills
- Workforce Readiness – Central Ozarks Private Industry Council
- Women's History Exhibit entitled "The Exceptions that Created the Rule"

Outreach

The Missouri Women's Council exhibits at conferences and has speakers available to present a wide range of topics.

Advocacy

Advocacy is an important part of the Women's Council mission. The Council works to be an informed voice on issues concerning women and families. The Council has formed a *Women in the Law Committee* that monitors and advocates for legislation affecting Missouri's women and families.

Awards

Each year the Missouri Women's Council recognizes individuals and organizations for their dedication to making a difference in the lives of women and families. The Award of Distinction and the Rose Kemp Public Service Award are presented annually in the spring.

Governor's Conference for Women

The Women's Council hosts the Missouri Governor's Conference for Women. This event is directed to the women of Missouri to provide information, awareness, and resources for issues facing women and families, including career planning and development, business startup and expansion, health information, and personal growth opportunities.